

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY QUORUM COURT

January 29, 2020

The Quorum Court of Mississippi County, Arkansas, met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Osceola Courthouse with County Judge John Alan Nelson presiding. Kirbee Morgan, Jacie Allen and Jamison Jernigan from Carroll Smith Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rollie “Tom” Mullins from First United Methodist gave the invocation.

The following members answered roll call:

Justice Ash	Justice Hepler
Justice Burge	Justice Nelson
Justice Fleeman	Justice Norvell
Justice Henton	Justice White

Absent: Justices Belcher, Clay and Jackson. Also in attendance: County Attorney Jeremy Thomas.

Justice White moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes as copies had been provided to the members. Justice Ash seconded the motion and the voice vote was unanimous.

In the treasurer’s report, County Treasurer Peggy Meatte reported the current interest rate at Farmers Bank is currently 1.65% on \$100,000.00 for one year and the sales tax revenue received for last month was up quite a bit and in fact it was the highest it has been for the month of December in the ten years they had been tracking it. She also reported the balance in County General was up from last month.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee: Justice Ash reported the committee met on January 14, 2020 and topics of discussion were:

- Reviewing job descriptions for the employees of the financial management department.
- Changing the Finance Director’s work week hours from 32.5 to 40 hours.
- Eliminating the part-time position in Financial Management office and giving that would be salary (\$12,675.00) to Kelli Jones (Finance Director)

Planning & Development Committee: Justice Nelson reported the committee met with Clif Chitwood, Director of Economic Development, and GREDF Board. Proposals discussed were:

- Nucor Paint Project asking for a \$675,000.00 incentive package for 50 jobs.
- Proposal for a new (updated) website for the Mississippi County Economic Development Area which would cost \$51,115.00.
- Requesting funding for a new employee in the office of Economic Development with an annual salary of \$87,500.00 and a \$30,000.00 increase in salary for the current employee for a total appropriation of \$150,000.00.

Insurance Committee: Justice reported the committee met on January 21, 2020. Discussed were:

- Finally completing the new insurance recruitment process.
- Trump signing a law allowing the county to participate and set up an HRA which would enable the county to reimburse employees for supplemental health premiums.

Finance Committee: Justice White reported the committee met and topics of discussion were:

- Ending the year at about 73% of appropriated budget.

- Nucor Paint Project asking for \$675,000.00
- Tadzo study recommended updating the Economic Development Website
- Tadzo study also recommended expanding the personnel in the office of Economic Development to include an external and an internal vice-president.
- \$2,500,000.00 of unused funds from various projects be placed back into the Economic Development Fund.
- Increase in hours and pay for the Finance Director.
- Justice Burge discussed the \$2,000,000.00 project at the landfill.
- New voting equipment

Judge Nelson yielded the floor to Clif Chitwood who discussed the Tadzo study and their recommendations for improvements in the Economic Development office. He explained the study recommended hiring additional personnel and he had found an extremely qualified person for the job but she would not consider the job for less than \$87,500.00. He further stated he would like to also increase the current employee's salary to \$87,500.00. Mr. Chitwood stressed the importance of making the change to better serve the county.

Judge Nelson then introduced Catherine Calloway, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, with the 2nd Judicial District DTF who came before the court to request \$32,000.00 to \$33,000.00 to pay the salary of support staff in her office. She stated this position had been funded by federal grant money and forfeiture money. Ms. Calloway informed the court they could no longer use the forfeiture money or grant money to pay salaries. Therefore, if assistance was not forthcoming, the drug cases she now handles in her office will be transferred to the Mississippi County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney's offices.

The clerk was asked to read a resolution titled: A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Nelson seconded and the vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. R-2020-01 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS INTERNET WEBSITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Fleeman seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-01 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FUNDING OF A CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Burge seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-02 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF A PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT POSITION AND INCREASE IN SALARY FOR THE FINANCE DIRECTOR POSITION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Ash seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-03 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF AN EMPLOYMENT POSITION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice Norvell moved to adopt, Justice White seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Ash, Burge, Fleeman, Henton, Hepler, Nelson, Norvell and White; Nay --- None: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-04 was adopted by the court.

The clerk was asked to read an ordinance titled: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING/MODIFYING APPROPRIATIONS FOR GREAT RIVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. EMPLOYEE EXPENSES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Following the reading by the clerk, Justice White moved to adopt, Justice Fleeman seconded and the voice vote was: Aye --- Burge, Fleeman, Nelson, and White; Nay --- Ash, Henton, Hepler, and Norvell: Absent--- Belcher, Clay and Jackson. O-2020-05 failed on the floor.

There being no further business to come before the court, Justice Fleeman moved to adjourn, Justice White seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Currie
County Clerk/Secretary